

Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Price Field Office, Utah, is initiating a planning effort to prepare the Price Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP). This planning effort involves preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Upon completion, the Price Field Office RMP will replace the existing Price River Management Framework Plan (MFP) and San Rafael RMP. The Price Field Office RMP will establish land use management policy for multiple resource uses on approximately 2.5 million acres of public land and 2.8 million acres of federal mineral resources in the Price Field Office. The BLM will also include the recently acquired lands west of the Green River that were previously part of the Naval Oil Shale Reserve #2 (NOSR2) including a 1/4 mile scenic easement on the east side of the Green River about 6500 acres. Sections 201 and 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1711) and the regulations in 43 CFR 1600 direct this planning effort.

Public Scoping Workshops will be held at the following places. All workshops will begin at 7:00 PM and last until 9:00 PM.

January 15, 2002, Salt Lake City, Utah - This is the Place State Park, Social Hall, 2601 Sunnyside Avenue

January 16, 2002, Moab, Utah - Ramada Inn Conference Room, 182 South Main Street

January 17, 2002, Grand Junction, Colorado - Grand Vista Hotel, 2790 Crossroads Blvd.

January 29, 2002, Green River, Utah - Green River City Hall, 240 East Main St.

January 30, 2002, Castle Dale, Utah - San Rafael Museum, 64 North 100 East

January 31, 2002, Price, Utah - Holiday Inn Conference Center, 838 Westwood Blvd.

If you wish to comment, request additional information, or request to be put on the mailing list, you may do so by notifying the Price Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 125 South, 600 West, Price, Utah 84501, Attn: Floyd Johnson, Assistant Field Office Manager (435) 636-3600.

The BLM can best utilize your input if you submit comments pertaining to land use issues and values by February 15, 2002.

Comments including names and addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM office listed above during regular business hours. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

This notice announces the beginning of scoping. The Price Field Office is seeking public involvement in the earliest possible stages of this planning effort to enhance collaboration in this effort. If you have information or concerns you would like to share, including ideas or opportunities that could enhance data collection, inventories, or formulation of issues that could be addressed in the plan please submit them to the above address.

Preliminary issues that could be addressed during development of the Price Field Office RMP include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) Identification and management of summer and winter ranges for mule deer and elk, (2) Forage competition between wildlife, wild horses and burros, and livestock, (3) The cumulative effect of land uses and human activities on threatened, endangered or sensitive species and their habitats, (4) Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) management, (5) Revision of Reasonable Foreseeable Development (RFD) scenarios for oil and gas development, (6) Concerns about water and air quality, (7) Management of Cultural and Paleontological resources including the Cleveland -Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry, (8) Fire Management opportunities and potential effects on vegetative communities, (9) Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) considerations, (10) Wild and Scenic River considerations, including making determinations on river eligibility, suitability, and tentative classification, and (11) Wilderness study areas (WSAs). These preliminary issues are not final and may be added to and refined through the public participation process.

Alternatives will be developed and analyzed to resolve the issues that are identified during the scoping process. A Draft RMP/EIS will be published and made available for public review. Other public review meetings will be conducted as drafts of the EIS and RMP are developed over the next two years. Public input is always welcome in this planning process.

This planning process is an open public dialog regarding the management of public lands. Opinions and input will be considered regardless of race, religion, sex, political affiliation, physical impairment or cultural differences. If needing special assistance in reviewing issues, documents, or in offering input (such as TTY, etc....) please contact the BLM Price Field Office at (435) 636-3600.